

MEETING SUMMARY

**Private Roundtable Discussion with U.S. Businesses
Third United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-3)**

**December 6, 2017 • 13:15 – 14:00
United Nations Office at Nairobi • Conference Room 5**

PARTICIPANTS

Featured Speakers

- Judith Garber – Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- Jane Nishida – Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of International and Tribal Affairs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Sarah Greenwalt – Senior Advisor to the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Private Sector

- Wayne Balta – Vice President of Corporate Environmental Affairs and Product Safety, IBM
- Anthony Catajan – Chief Compliance Officer, ADEC Innovations
- Edan Dionne – Director of Corporate Environmental Affairs, IBM
- James Donovan – Founder and Chairman, Global CEO Alliance; CEO, ADEC Innovations
- Amy Galland – Founder and Principal, Empower Venture Partners
- Stewart Harris – Director of Marine and Environmental Stewardship, American Plastics Council
- Robert Hunter – Executive Director of Crop Protection, Croplife International
- Norine Kennedy – Vice President of Environment, Energy, and Strategic International Engagement, United States Council for International Business
- Cheikh Mbow – Executive Director, START International
- Nicole Mlade – Director of Global Affairs, American Chemistry Council
- Michelle Tan – Head of Research and Development, ADEC Innovations

U.S. Government

- Ryan Berger – U.S. Department of State, Nairobi
- Brianna Biesch – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington
- Tyler Hacking – U.S. Department of Commerce, Nairobi
- Mary Masyuko – U.S. Department of Commerce, Nairobi
- Christopher Nyce – U.S. Department of State, Addis Ababa

KEY POINTS OF DISCUSSION

- PDAS Garber opened the roundtable by overviewing the USG's efforts since UNEA-2 to liaise with the UNEP Secretariat in order to expand the private sector's role in UNEA-3. AA Nishida mentioned the EPA's commitment to private-sector engagement, noting Administrator Pruitt's attendance at this year's G7 Ministerial in Bologna, while Ms. Greenwalt highlighted that the export of American technologies as a priority of the Trump administration.
- USCIB's Ms. Kennedy, the main private-sector interlocutor, expressed her gratitude for USG presence – and its representation of U.S. private-sector interests – at UNEA-3. She noted that UNEP's focus on business changed “from night to day” between UNEA-2 and UNEA-3, underlining the name change from the Science-Policy Forum to the Science-Policy-Business Forum in the weekend preceding the Assembly. Mr. Donovan of the Global CEO Alliance added that UNEA-3 is the first UNEA where there seems to have been tangible outreach to – and the incorporation of – business voices.
- Mr. Harris of the World Plastics Council reiterated the importance of the private sector's coordination with the USG between UNEAs. He praised the U.S. negotiating team's skillful massaging of the marine bio resolution, adding that his industry could not accept a thematic open-ended working group, proposed by Norway, which would lead to a global treaty on plastics. PDAS Garber responded that OES has seen the issue of marine litter growing in prominence, which means that U.S. businesses and the USG need to coordinate closely. AA Nishida added that there are other fora beyond UNEA where marine litter could arise, such as the G7 and G20.
- Mr. Balta of IBM explained that his company is interested in UNEA because an international organization is recognizing that blockchain, artificial intelligence, and the Internet of Things can address human health on a significant scale – and he doesn't want the environment to be left behind. AA Nishida replied that much of EPA's international work concerns the passing of technologies to the developing world, and underlined the importance of understanding each other's capabilities. She also mentioned that the December 5 gala featured young entrepreneurs, who are looking to key industry players for guidance to realize their projects.
- While there were areas of praise, private-sector participants also posited that UNEP doesn't fully understand how important the UNEA forum is to U.S. businesses. To that effect, Ms. Kennedy pointed to USCIB's new “business alliance for the environment.” She explained that while accreditation for UNEA-3 had become easier than past Assemblies, UNEP still needs to “grow the circle.” Ms. Galland of Empower Venture Partners lamented the lack of investment firms at UNEA – both traditional firms and socially-responsible ones. PDAS Garber appreciated the criticisms but also responded that UNEP is improving from previous UNEAs, noting that UNEA-2 didn't even have a theme, which left that Assembly much more scattered and disparate.
- Mr. Hacking, Ms. Masyuko, and Mr. Nyce all introduced themselves to the participants and offered themselves as on-the-ground commercial and policy assistance from strategic African

capitals. Ms. Kennedy replied that USCIB and its members wanted greater visibility with the UNEP Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), so she would take up the offer.

- Looking forward, Ms. Kennedy explained that the business community is working to synergize with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Ms. Mlade of the American Chemistry Council resolved to continue public-private collaboration on important themes to U.S. industry, such as the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). PDAS Garber elaborated that UNEP would quickly turn its focus to UNEA-4, scheduled for March 2019. She pledged to work with the private sector and asked participants to reflect on UNEA-3, crystallize their thoughts, and send their recommendations to State and EPA as to what can improve for the next UNEA. The PDAS added that she had just concluded bilateral meetings with the UNEP executive director and the environment minister of Estonia, which holds the UNEA-4 presidency, and that she will be meeting with the UNEP director for North America before year-end – so OES is well-suited to engage with UNEA stakeholders on behalf of U.S. businesses.